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Judy Napier
3300 Riverglade Road
Powhatan, Virginia 23139

January 18, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D-Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am told that comments on the proposed Microsoft settlement are to be directed to you. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.

The proposed settlement stipulates that Microsoft could not penalize computer manufacturers who distribute software that competes with Microsoft's operating systems (including Windows XP) and middleware (i.e., Internet browser, instant messaging tools, media player, and email utilities). These manufacturers would be entitled to uniform licensing terms, with some flexibility for volume discounts and marketing allowances. Computer manufacturers could fully "monetize" their control over the boot sequence and desktop configuration of computers by installing or promoting non-Microsoft products and services. They would be free to remove or replace any Microsoft middleware. I believe this means guaranteed flexibility for computer manufacturers who equip their products with any Microsoft operating system.

The last thing the technology industry needs now are government lawyers, bureaucrats and judges watching over the industry, attempting to micromanage it - which is exactly what Microsoft's rivals lobby for on a regular basis. In this economy we need to market to operate freely, which is when it operates at its best.

Sincerely yours,

